

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-referenced application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for ~~In~~ a sending station operable in a radio communication system to send data upon a communication channel susceptible to distortion, the sending station having an antenna transducer at which the data to be sent is transduced into electromagnetic form, ~~an improvement of said~~ apparatus for placing the data in a form to facilitate communication thereof upon the communication channel, said apparatus comprising:

a modulator coupled to receive indications of the data, the data forming a first code-matrix and at least a second code-matrix, said first and at least second code-matrices formed of code symbols, the code symbols for a selected pair of code matrices corresponding to a shortest error event exhibiting mathematical differences that define a difference matrix, such that the difference matrix multiplied together with a hermetian of the difference matrix is proportional to an identity matrix for at least the shortest error event.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus modulator of claim 21 wherein the code symbols of the first and at least second code-matrices are selected such that the difference matrix multiplied together with the hermetian of the difference matrix substantially corresponds to the identity matrix multiplied together with a selected constant.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the selected constant is selected to maximize Euclidean distances between the first and at least second codewords defined by the first and at least second matrices.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said modulator comprises a symbol assignor, said symbol assignor for assigning the code symbols to form each of the first and at least second code-matrices of values such that the difference matrix multiplied together with the hermetian of the difference matrix is proportional to the identity matrix.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said modulator further comprises a mapper coupled to said at least one antenna transducer and adapted to receive the code symbols of the first and at least second code-matrices, said mapper for mapping the code symbols to the antenna transducer.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said modulator comprises a space-time modulator that exhibits a unitary rate of modulation.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the code symbols formed during operation of said modulator comprise PSK-modulated (Phase Shift Kehying-modulated) symbols.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the antenna transducer of the sending station comprises a first antenna element and at least a second antenna element, and wherein separate ones of modulated symbols formed by said modulator are applied to separate ones of the first and at least second antenna elements.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus In the radio communication system of claim 28, in which the data communicated upon the communication channel is transmitted to a receiving station, ~~a further improvement of apparatus for the receiving station~~, said apparatus further comprising:

a demodulator embodied at the receiving station and coupled to receive indications of the data once received at the receiving station, said demodulator for demodulating the indications of the data provided thereto.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said demodulator performs joint demodulation and decoding operations.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~In-a A~~ method of communicating in a radio communication system having a sending station operable to send data upon a communication channel susceptible to distortion, the sending station having an antenna transducer at which the data to be sent is transduced into electromagnetic form, ~~an improvement of a said~~ method for placing the data in a form to facilitate communication thereof upon the communication channel, said method comprising:

applying indications of the data to a modulator, the data forming a first code-matrix and at least a second code-matrix, said first and at least second code-matrices formed of code symbols, the code symbols for a selected pair of code matrices corresponding to a shortest error event, exhibiting mathematical differences that define a difference matrix, such that the difference matrix multiplied together with a hermetian of the difference matrix is proportional to an identity matrix for at least the shortest error event; and

transducing the data into electromagnetic form at the antenna transducer.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the code symbols of the first and at least second code-matrices are selected such that the difference matrix multiplexed together with the hermetian of the difference matrix substantially corresponds to the identity matrix multiplied together with a selected constant.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the selected constant is selected to maximize Euclidean distances between the first and second codewords defined by the first and at least second codewords.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 further wherein said operation of modulating comprises assigning the code symbols to form each of the first and at least second code-matrices of values such that the difference matrix multiplied together with the hermetian of the difference matrix is proportional to the identity matrix.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 further comprising the operation of mapping the code symbols to the antenna transducer.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein modulation performed during said operation of modulating is performed at a unitary rate.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein code symbols formed during said operations of forming comprise PSK-modulating (Phase Shift Key) modulated symbols.